

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 15.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.


If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
3100 Norwest Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 332-5300

Dated: January 18, 2000

By


John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:tvm